



WILDCAT

Volume 5 Number 3

81st RSC, Birmingham, Alabama

Fall 2002

Home sweet home

Story by SSG Derrick Witherspoon
81st RSC, PAO

COLUMBUS, Ga. – Tears streamed down faces as emotions began to overflow at the thought of the return of some Army Reservists that many might say are hometown heroes in their own right.

The 802nd Quartermaster Company (Force Provider), based in Columbus, received a hero's welcome from family members in June after returning home from a six-month mobilization in Uzbekistan. The Army Reserve unit mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to help establish base camps for soldiers traveling in and out of Afghanistan.

Captain Patricia B. Harris, commander of the 802nd, said this was the unit's first mobilization. "This is my first mobilization, as well as the unit's. This unit is actually quite new. Force Provider was stood up right after Desert Storm, because the military saw there was a need for this type of company after Desert Storm panned out," Harris said. "The 802nd is one of six units of its

kind in the Army's inventory, a majority of which are Army Reserve."

Harris said approximately 40 soldiers mobilized with the 802nd and were all trained to handle this mission. "The unit has been training at Fort Polk, La., which has a module set up where they learned how to run the services they provided during our mobilization. They've been performing this training for over three years now, and now it's paid off."

The 802nd provided soldiers in the Afghan theater with housing, water, food, as well as morale and welfare services to keep their morale up.

"We put this uniform on to do this job, and after Sept. 11th it really drove home why..."

Captain Patricia B. Harris

"When we got there, we had tents already set up for the soldiers. All they had to do was get off the plane and lay down on a cot," Harris said.

Harris said not only did they focus on the soldiers' health and welfare, but they also focused on their morale by setting up tents for them to go and watch movies, eat some popcorn, play games and relax.

Although the 802nd worked hard to help boost the morale of the soldiers,



Photo courtesy of Capt. Patricia B. Harris

Captain Patricia B. Harris (U.S. flag on shoulder), commander of the 802nd QM CO, located in Columbus, Ga., stands in front of her soldiers during an award ceremony in Uzbekistan.

somewhere in the process their morale was uplifted also.

Spc. Adam S. Fronhorz, a water purification specialist attached to the 802nd, said he was truly pleased he received the opportunity to perform this mission. "I'm originally from New York, born and raised, and Sept. 11th really hit me hard. I was more than ready to go and do my part to make sure what happened here never happens again, but I'm glad to be back home," Fronhorz said.

Harris said this mission helped the unit understand exactly why they wear the

Army uniform and how essential their jobs are. "For me, it felt like it was less of a burden to leave my family, as well as the rest of the soldiers, because we knew others had given their lives, citizens, who had never put this uniform on. We put this uniform on to do this job, and after Sept. 11th it really drove home why we really put this uniform on, because it was the United States and our family members that we were protecting. Unfortunately, we had to go, but it felt great to serve our country and we would be more than proud to do it again if called upon." 🐾

Coping with aftereffects of 9-11, Army Reserve mobilizations

Story by SSG Derrick Witherspoon
81st RSC, PAO

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – "In every generation, the world has produced enemies of human freedom. They have attacked America because we are freedom's home and defenders. The commitment of our fathers is now the calling of our time," President George W. Bush.

The 81st Regional Support Command (RSC) has over 2,000 reservists mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and there are more mobilizing or preparing to mobilize each day. The amount of mobilizations that have occurred since September 11, 2001, reflect some of the aftereffects being felt by Army Reservists across America; of which many hail from the 81st RSC.

Chaplain Tommy W. Smith, chaplain for the 81st RSC, said with so many mobilizations and uncertainties, reservists need to make sure they avoid the onset of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

"One of the big factors in PTSD is that things you experienced in the past tend to reappear without you even realizing it a majority of the time. After Sept. 11th some people were more upset than others and as the year went on they began to cope with what had happened, but now that Sept. 11th has come again

those same feelings they thought were under control might arise again," Smith said.

Smith added that unit commanders should make sure they continuously communicate with their soldiers and allow them to talk about what they may be experiencing due to being mobilized and being away from their families. "Talking about your fears, frustrations, pain and anger in times like this is a good way for soldiers

"Your mission is defined. The objectives are clear. Your goal is just. You have my full confidence, and you will have every tool you need to carry out your duty."

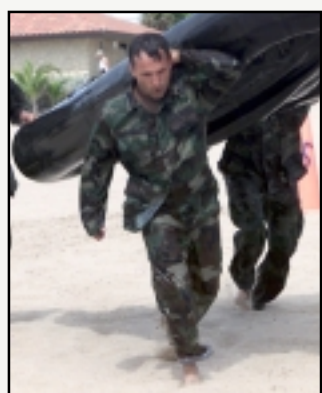
President George W. Bush

to relieve themselves of the stress they may be feeling due to being away from home or worrying about when another attack might occur. Also, classes on learning about dealing with stress can help soldiers and their family members cope with stressful situations," Smith said.

Sergeant First Class Cassandra Williams from the

314th Press Camp Headquarters, located in Birmingham, Ala., recently returned from a six months mobilization in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. She said Sept. 11th was an eye opener for her. "I really didn't fully understand the tragedy of Sept. 11th, but I now look at it as a wake up call," Williams said. "For some reason, we dropped our guard down and we were attacked. Even as a super power, it showed us that we are not untouchable. There are some people out there who are willing to suffer the consequences for their beliefs. I have learned that we must do whatever is necessary to protect our freedom and our American way of life. That thought is what has gotten me through the rough times."

"September 11th has changed all of our lives. It has effected not only soldiers mobilizing, but family members and personnel involved with supporting mobilizations and current operations," said Lt. Col. Richard D. Wakefield, chief of the 81st RSC mobilization branch. "The effects have been felt in the way we do business, the extended hours that we have to work, the support to mobilizing soldiers and their family members, force protection, etc. It can be hard at times, but as long as we keep our heads up and stay focused we can continue to get through this." 🐾



Front cover:
Sergeant First Class Ernesto Sorondo, 841st EN BN, demonstrates how soldiers should move their rafts from the starting point to the turnabout point during a training exercise. (Photo by Spc. Anthony K. Reinoso, 204th MPAD)

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GENERAL COMMENTS



Maj. Gen. Michael R. Mayo

As I approach the end of my tenure, I am amazed at how successful the 81st Regional Support Command has been since inception.

Some would attribute that success to the leadership. I would offer that it's the soldiers, civilians, families and volunteers that make the 81st so successful.

While "Be All You Can Be" is a term for individuals, I believe it applies to organizations as well. You have made and continue to make the 81st Regional Support Command a learning organization that reaches for the "Be All You Can Be" spirit.

The stories in this edition are indicative of great soldiers doing great things. Since September of



2001, over 2,000 81st soldiers mobilized in support of Operation

Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle. I want to thank all of you for reporting when called, performing your duty, and taking care of each other.

A special thanks to the families of our mobilized and mobilizing soldiers. It's your support of our soldiers that allows them to perform their duties to the best of their abilities. Together we can continue to work to insure tragedies like September 11th never happen again.

Thanks for all you do. Thanks for all of your accomplishments. Keep making a difference.

(Readiness-Soldiers-Families)

CHAPLAIN'S CHAT

Our nation is a nation of great diversity. Diversity in our country is racial and religious. Not unlike America, the Army is also made up of all possible racial and ethnic mixes. The Army is also complete with religious diversity to include Christian, Jewish, Muslim and other religious groups.

America, from the beginning, was formed out of many nations and people. "One out of many," this tells us the story. The many are different bloods and from diverse backgrounds and cultures. From "the many" we have become "one nation." The primary religion of early Americans forging the new nation was the Christian religion. There were in smaller numbers Jewish groups. Jewish and Christian alike, no one doubted that God was the Sovereign over all men. Many other faith groups are represented in America today, because America has always been an open door to the world. Millions who have longed for freedom have come to our shores.

The Army has always reflected the complexion of our people. The nation is complex and diverse and so are soldiers in our Army today.

America, like the Army, is a family, a diverse family. What is right, decent and uniquely good about America? Historically, Americans have been a people who worshipped God. Americans have always shared the conviction that every person is created equal. Each person bears the image of God. Because many different religious



Chaplain (Col.) Tommy W. Smith

beliefs are represented in the Army today, we must go back to the foundation of our freedoms and recognize that each and every person bears the image of God and is therefore due our respect and protection.

Soon we may be called upon to enter new phases of the war on terror. We need to stand united behind our leadership. Soldiers need the confidence that this nation need not be afraid of anything, that we are family and that we will take care of one another. Your own dedication to God and to your country is seen in the life you live and the kind of selfless service you bring to your job. It is seen reflected in the eyes of the soldiers who look to you as "a family member." We must care for one another. We are members of a truly great team and a very great nation—a nation under God.

"We are members of a truly great team and a very great nation."

Chaplain (Col.) Tommy W. Smith

CSM MEMOS

Alas, Alas. The final day of duty has come, and I must admit, with much grater speed than I anticipated. For many soldiers, the end of the month of September signals the "final" chapter of their military careers. I'm quite sure that the end is likely both joyous and melancholy for each of them.

The time that has been required and graciously given is much more than is realized by those who have not experienced the military phase of life. I do believe that the majority of those leaving have given their time and energy out of respect and loyalty to and for their country, their soldiers and themselves. One must conclude that "Citizen-Soldier" displays the appropriate fabric that makes for great Americans.

As the days go by, there will be many opportunities for those in junior positions to step forward and assume their rightful and hard earned place as senior leaders of tomorrow. To that end, I believe that the force will be prepared to accomplish the directed missions and execute the implied leadership qualities that each position demands.

The "Legacy Force" concept is moving very rapidly into the "Interim Force." This transition is accelerating due to demanding world political scenarios and the necessity for transition can't wait if the force is to be viable to the needs of our nation and its military forces.

As forces prepare to meet the needs of multiple contingencies, the soldier and his skills appear to be more important than ever. It is this thought that



Command Sgt. Maj. George Johnson

continues to drive the NCO force to continue to refine their skills. Individual soldier skills are an NCO's business. As such, one could then conclude that unit success is directly tied to soldier success. This individual success is an NCO report card.

As many of us NCO's depart, we yield our watch to our replacements with the resolve that while our time is complete, yours is just beginning. The responsibility and success is in your lane for the soldiers of this command. The legacy that is being passed to you is an awesome

responsibility to which you and your training must protect, nurture and pass on in your time. My family and I, along with countless other Americans, are depending upon you. My son, scott, expressed all of our feelings and emotions when he said, "I'm so proud of you and what you do."

May God bless and keep you.

"My family and I, along with countless other Americans, are depending upon you."

Command Sgt. Maj. George Johnson

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WILDCAT

The WILDCAT is published in the interest of all personnel of the U.S. Army 81st Regional Support Command. It is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1 and has a circulation of 30,000.

It is written, edited and published by the Public Affairs Office, 81st RSC, 255 West Oxmoor Road, Birmingham, Ala. 35209-6383. Toll-free number: 1-877-749-9063/ext.1693, Fax (205) 795-1694. Internet address: <http://www.se.usar.army.mil/pao/pao.htm>.

Editorial views and opinions expressed in the publication are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or the 81st RSC.

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Family Readiness Group serves up new idea to raise money

Story by 1st Lt. Stacia L. Hayes

640th ASG

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - Raising funds for the benefit of Family Readiness is definitely a challenge. A challenge that families, friends and unit members of the 640th Area Support Group met by operating a concession booth at the Gaylord Entertainment Center in Nashville, Tenn., for the Predator's games during the 2001-2002 hockey season.

The 640th Family Readiness Group (FRG) was given a tip that they could earn a considerable amount of funds for their non-profit organization by operating a concession booth. After some research, an application was submitted and they were on their way to some "fun-raising!"

Volunteers began each scheduled event three hours before the games so they could count cups, food items, food containers and beginning cash for change. The concession company that schedules all non-profit groups provided uniforms and one meal to the volunteers. The concession company also provided cooks, so no cooking was required of the volunteers. The only thing the volunteers had to do was sell the items that were available at the assigned booth.

Booths varied with each scheduled event. One night may be pizza, the other burgers and hot dogs. Training was also required and provided by the concession company, and it's a good thing, because many of the soldiers said operating the cash registers was a little confusing.

Before the first puck was dropped, the fun began. Cashiers took orders while runners listened and began filling orders so the customers would have their orders promptly after payment. Breaks between periods were peak times for concessions, and volunteers really earn their keep during these times of chaos.

"Providing food and drink services to the public is challenging," said 2nd Lt. Ebony Banks, one of the 640th ASG volunteers. "Trying to remember a tall order is one of the challenges; however, the cash registers have a "review" function that is invaluable



Photo by 1st Lt. Stacia L. Hayes

Captain Monice Jackson-Ferrill (right), a member of the 640th ASG, serves a customer a drink at a concession booth during the 640th's fundraiser at the Gayland Entertainment Center, Nashville, Tenn.

to the cashiers. Also, keeping the food off of the floor and in the container while filling orders and dodging coworkers can be another challenge."

Operating a concession booth in Music City was also an opportunity to meet famous people. Country music artist Vince Gill visited the volunteers' booth one evening.

Once the game was over, there was more to be done at the concession booth. The volunteers had to cleanup and count the money. "Cleaning up sounds tough, but the counting is what counts," said Capt. Monice Jackson-Ferrill, who was also one of the 640th ASG volunteers. "We have to count the balance of the cups and containers, the remaining food items, and of course, the cash drawers must be counted. Before anyone can leave, all must

balance." Jackson-Ferrill said this process took a couple of hours or so, but as a reward, the volunteers got to snack on the leftovers.

Fund raising events are also a great time to get to know family members and friends of unit members. During the fund raising event, especially one of this type, it's the perfect opportunity to become teammates with members of the Family Readiness Group (FRG) and enjoy one another's company. It is important to remember to get a signed volunteer agreement from each volunteer. "Each volunteer's time is very valuable, so be sure to record those hours," Jackson-Ferrill said. "The hours can quickly add up to qualify for certificates of appreciation and awards. Since volunteers makeup the FRG, make sure to reward them for their time." 🐾

Communication: Bridging gap between mobilizations, families

Story by SSG Derrick Witherspoon
81st RSC, PAO

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - Since Sept. 11th, 2001, Army Reserve units have been mobilizing at an increased capacity. Although the reservists in these units are being prepared to handle their missions, their family members need to be just as prepared to handle the responsibilities that will be placed upon them once their gone.

Almost every day a family member has to see their husband or wife mobilize in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. This separation can be extremely tough on the family member left behind to hold down the fort at home, but John P. Gannon says with the right support, family members can accomplish this mission with little to no problems.

Gannon, a family program specialist at the 81st Regional Support Command (RSC), said units should take the first step in making sure family members are prepared for mobilizations. "Army Reserve units should be sanctioning functioning Family Readiness Groups (FRG). About a year ago the FRG was called the Family Support Group, but that was changed because Family Readiness should not just be an event for getting ready for deployment, but

an ongoing event to maintain the readiness level of reservists and their family members," Gannon said.

He also said communication between family members is a great tool for coping with mobilizations. "Starting what's called a 'Family Tree,' which is a list of telephone numbers, can help family members

Michael Chisem, Sr., of the mobilized 318th Chemical Company, located in Birmingham, Ala., said the communication between her and the other wives has really been beneficial. She added that although it was helpful, it was the communication between her and her husband that really got her through his six month mobilization.

Another way family members can cope with mobilizations is by calling their unit Chaplain. Chaplain Gerald R. Nelson, chaplain for the headquarters and headquarters company, 81st RSC, said, "Families can always turn to their chaplains. If they don't know who their chaplain is, they can call my office and I will get them in contact with a chaplain." He added that there are also local outlets for family members to turn to. "The local community has wonderful people who want to help as well: local clergy, social workers, school counselors, and veterans groups. The most important thing I can say is not to keep it to yourself. No one can help you unless you let someone know that you need help. If you have a problem, chances are that someone else has a problem to. You will discover that it is not a sign of weakness to ask for help, just a sign of weakness not to ask for help," Nelson said.

Chisem said she knows being away from your loved one can be a struggle, but if you keep in mind why they're gone, it can help you stay focused on the task at hand. "First, you need to have faith in God that everything will workout for the best. We have to keep in mind that they're not doing this for the fun of it, they're helping everyone in this country to have a better place to live," Chisem said. 🐾



Photo by Capt. Daniel K. Byer

Specialist Jeremy W. Guthrie, 314th MPAD, Birmingham, Ala., hugs one of his family members during the units welcome home ceremony.

stay in contact with each other. It's also a good idea to get a FRG newsletter started. This keeps the family members who are unable to attend FRG meetings informed," Gannon said.

Angela C. Chisem, wife of Staff Sgt.

"It's extremely hard trying to cope with him not being here, considering we just got married on September 1st of 2001. We communicate through e-mail and phone cards. I think staying in contact the way we have has been a tremendous help," Chisem said.

Train to fight

478th EN BN packs up, heads out to train for wartime mission

Story by Spc. Briana Wright
319th MPAD

CAMP ATTERBURY, Ind. – The saying “practice makes perfect” holds true in many areas of life, and is especially essential for unit readiness in today’s military. In light of America’s war on terrorism, reserve units are being called upon now more than ever to step-up to the plate and defend their country in other parts of the world. Sometimes this requires being ready at a moments notice to do a job that, if done improperly, could cost lives. No one understands this better than the corps of combat engineers in the Army Reserve.

To prepare them for possible wartime missions, the 478th Engineer Battalion, from Fort Thomas, Ky., recently spent their annual training (AT) at Camp Atterbury honing their skills in the field.

The primary mission of this AT was to conduct lanes training, which consisted of digging tank ditches, putting out obstacles, laying minefields, and taking turns as companies getting through those created obstacles. They also completed weapons qualification on a variety of weapons and practiced a blackout night movement. These particular skills are vital for their overall mission of mobility and survivability as a combat unit.

“Our job as combat engineers is to be right up front with the infantry by creating obstacles to hinder enemy movement or breaching obstacles to allow our infantry to get through,” said battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Preston J. Bishop.

The 478th, who normally spends annual training at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., as individual companies, came together as a



Photo by Spc. Briana Wright

Staff Sergeant David B. Blackburn (right), senior motor sergeant for the 478th EN BN Bravo maintenance team, and Sgt. Michael L. Minks, also with the Bravo maintenance team, adjust the charging system of a team armoured personnel carrier in preparation for a breaching mission.

battalion to conduct lanes training. The companies who were also involved included mechanics, cooks, medics and communications personnel.

“This is the first time in maybe four or five years that the battalion has come together at one time in a field environment and sustained itself in the field for more than two days,” said Lt. Col. Mark S. Williams, battalion commander.

In light of the recent deployments since September 11th, the unit is aware of the possibility that they could be the next one called upon at anytime; hence the importance of this particular readiness training.

“The mission was appropriate before September

11th and even more so today. September 11th put troops on a heightened sense of awareness, showing them that we are not liked by everyone in the world and that we have to be ready at a moment’s notice,” said 1st Sgt. Timothy J. Marcus.

Like many other units in the U.S. Army, the 478th is committed to not only completing their mission, but also doing it with accuracy and precision. According to Williams it’s simply “training the way we fight.”

“Every time we come out here and train the way we fight it gives us a higher readiness factor for the soldiers and troops,” he said. ☺

AKO: Keeping Army, units, soldiers connected

Story by SSG Derrick Witherspoon
81st RSC, PAO

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - To many Army Reservists, managing their military careers from their personal computers might appear to be a thing of the future, but the future maybe here sooner than they think.

Army Knowledge Online

The intranet portal Army Knowledge Online (AKO), also known as the Army Portal, is a primary component of The Army Knowledge Management (AKM) strategy and The Army Transformation. The AKO vision is to transform the institutional Army into an information-age, networked organization that leverages its intellectual capital to better organize, train, equip and maintain a strategic land combat force.

AKO is available to Active Duty Army, Army Reserve, Army National Guard, Department of the Army Civilians, Retired Army and Army sponsored Guest Accounts. The AKM guidance memo from the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army stated that all Army individuals should have had AKO accounts by October 1, 2001.

AKO Process

If a reservist doesn’t have an AKO account the process to get one is almost as easy as turning on a computer. First make certain your Internet Browser is version 4.0 or higher. If you have an earlier version, you may not be able to fully utilize AKO. Once you’re browser is up, access “Army Knowledge Online”

at www.army.mil. To register, click on the “I’m a new user” link and fill out the application and you’re on your way. If a problem arises more information can be obtained by calling 1-877-AKO-USER or by sending an e-mail to help@us.army.mil.

OMPF

With an AKO login and password, soldiers can also log into the Army

physical and re-enlistment. Soldiers can also display their personal career information, such as retirement points and evaluation history, and view selected soldier documents.

My2xCitizen

AR-PERSCOM recently expanded its ability to take care of soldiers by enhancing the self-service portal on its official Web site: www.2xCitizen.usar.

will be added to this section in the future.

AKO also has a section called the Army Knowledge Collaboration Center (KCC) where Army units and soldiers can share and collaborate information. 81st Regional Support Command (RSC) information technology specialist, Simone F. Rivers, said it will provide the primary means by which all command levels of the Army communicate with each other and with their soldiers regardless of where they are located.

Implementation

Rivers said, considering reservists are not at their units on a daily basis and may not have an account on an Army Reserve network, the KCC will help get information out to them such as drill bulletins, training schedules, information papers, and other necessary information. She added that KCC will also enable reservists to go online with their documents and store them in a virtual workspace where they have the option of sharing them with other AKO users. Rivers said the implementation process might take a little time, but once fully implemented the KCC will be an essential communication tool throughout the Army.

So, as the Army moves forward with Army Knowledge Online, reservists should make sure they’re a part of this futuristic way to communicate worldwide, stay informed and stay connected to the knowledge the Army has to offer online. ☺



Photo courtesy of AKO Web site

Reserve Personnel Command (AR-PERSCOM) My2xCitizen website where they can view their official military personnel file (OMPF) online. Through this sight Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) soldiers and reservists can update personal contact data, be alerted on events or actions associated with maintaining retention and readiness status (for example, security clearance,

www.us.army.mil. Besides maintaining all of the My2xCitizen functionality and links previously available, one new feature gives soldiers the ability to check on their Mobilization and Assignment/ Attachment Orders processed in the AR-PERSCOM Orders Reporting System (AORS). This is the first step toward providing a complete history of orders data for the soldier; more orders data

Officers, soldiers leap into training during CIOR 2002

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Keith Johnson
81st RSC, PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas – Athletes started arriving the middle of June for three weeks of some of the most physically and mentally challenging training that most will experience in their military careers. Several of the competitors, cadre and support staff were from the 81st Regional Support Command (RSC).

Captain Kate Forehand was competing in the Confederation of Interallied Reserve Officer (CIOR) competition for her first year. “The training is intense,” she said. Forehand, from Charlotte, N.C., is the detachment commander for Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 812th Transportation Battalion based in Charlotte.

Forehand set the female personal record for the 5-mile run, and also had the fastest 10-mile run time of the camp.

“I never had so much fun while totally fatiguing myself physically and mentally,” Forehand said.

For Capt. Sue Torres, this is her second year, however, she’s not a competitor. She’s one of four Athletic Trainer, Certified (ATC’s), that provided medical coverage for the athletes. Torres, from Gaffney, S.C., is a Combat Administration Officer with the 7225th Medical Support Unit. Her requirement for CIOR has nothing to do with her military job. She said none of the military services have ATC’s.

Members of the 121st Reinforcement Training Unit (Special Marksmanship) are at the camp as marksmanship instructors. The 121st, based in Birmingham, Ala., is an Inactive Ready

Reserve unit under the 81st RSC.

“For the first two weeks, we teach them how to train soldiers in their units,” said Master Sgt. Clarence Russell. “After the team selection, we teach them how to compete.”

Russell, from Smoke Rise, Ala., and Sgt. 1st Class Charlie Hearn, from Bessemer, Ala., are rifle instructors, and also taught familiarization of the French Fa Mas rifle. Competitors are required to fire the service rifle and pistol of the country hosting the pentathlon. For 2002, it’s in Draguignan, France, just outside of Nice.

The U.S. Armed Forces Professional Development and Military Skills Training Center here is a joint-service training center staffed by reserve commissioned and non-commissioned officers. The cadre and staff members mobilize from across the U.S. each summer to the training center here to conduct professional development and military skills training to reserve officers and cadets from all branches of the armed forces.

During the first two-weeks, the athletes receive physical and academic training. Some of the topics include land and water confidence courses, land navigation, rifle and pistol marksmanship, grenade throwing, combat first aid, fitness and nutrition and mental conditioning.

At the end of the two-week training camp, team selection is conducted to choose members of the U.S. Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers (CIOR) Pentathlon Team. The officers are tested during the third week in five events: land and water obstacle courses,

“I never had so much fun while totally fatiguing myself physically and mentally.”

Captain Kate Forehand



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class D. Keith Johnson

Captain Kate Forehand clears the balance beam in the land obstacle course during the team selection for the U.S. Military Pentathlon. Forehand was competing for a slot on the team as a Novice.

rifle and pistol marksmanship, and a 10-15 kilometer land orienteering course.

The United States teams then will go to Draguignan, France, for the NATO Military Pentathlon and compete against teams from each of the NATO countries.

There’s more to CIOR than just the

athletics. Its purpose is to provide training that will benefit them as leaders and benefit the units under the 81st RSC.

Forehand agrees, adding, “I can now return to my unit with more confidence as a leader.” ☺

Building a better tomorrow Engineers work to enhance ARRTC

Story by Capt. Daniel Byer
314th PCH

FORT MCCOY, Wis. – Members of the 926th Engineer Group from Montgomery, Ala., and 926th Engineer Battalion from Birmingham, Ala., joined soldiers from the Chattanooga, Tenn., based 844th Engineer Battalion, Bravo Company, on various construction projects during their Annual Training at Fort McCoy throughout the month of May.

The 81st Regional Support Command (RSC) units worked together on numerous projects to enhance the home of the Army Reserve Readiness Training Center, a post frequently visited by Reserve soldiers as they progress through their military careers.

During the first two weeks of the Installation Related Construction (IRC) exercise, a total of 535

soldiers from the units worked together on three projects: the refurbishing of a World War II building; the horizontal construction of a new main gate entrance; and the vertical construction of an M-203 grenade launcher range observation tower.

The WW II building, which is used as an administrative office building on the post, is being completely restored and modernized. “Basically what we are doing is gutting out the inside, replacing the doors, windows,

“... all new electrical, all new plumbing. This is a total renovation project.”

Lt. Col. James D. Gates

wall coverings, floor coverings, all new electrical, all new plumbing. This is a total renovation project,” said Lt. Col. James D. Gates, 926th EN GP Deputy Commander.

The new main gate area was cleared of standing timber and debris to make way for a new four-lane main gate entranceway. For the project, 12,000 tons of sand and gravel were delivered to the site for the roadway, according to Maj. Timothy F. McConvery, 926th EN



Photo by Capt. Daniel Byer

Army Reservists from the Montgomery, Ala., based 926th Engineer Group cut plywood to refurbish a WW II era building at Fort McCoy, Wis., as part of their Installation Related Construction exercise during their Annual Training this summer.

GP Logistics Officer.

An observation tower, one of two that will be constructed during the exercise, replaces an ineffective tower at an M-203 grenade launcher range on the post, standing higher and positioned over the range for greater overall visibility.

After their two weeks at the sites, the soldiers returned to their

home station and were replaced by fellow soldiers from the 81st RSC, as well as soldiers from the 88th RSC headquartered at Fort Snelling, Minn.

Their replacements continued these projects and began other projects, such as an additional range tower at another location on post, the construction of a mess shelter and more new road construction. ☺



One of the 841st Engineer Battalion teams race back from the turnaround point during the unit’s water training exercise. The soldiers had to carry their raft to the water, get in and row to a designated buoy and be the first team to get back to the start point.



Two of the 841st Engineer Battalion teams race to see who can carry their raft to the water, row to a designated buoy, turnaround and get back first.



Sergeant Sean Davis, 841st Engineer Battalion, demonstrates a tactical low crawl on the beach.

841st EN BN dives into training exercise

Story and photos by Spc. Anthony K. Reinoso
204th MPAD

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.— The 841st Engineer Battalion is a unit filled with engineers who train to mobilize and deploy by sea, air and land to conduct survivability and limited mobility operations. On orders they also handle counter mobility operations during combat operations.

“A lot of our training areas are around water,” said Capt. Rudolph P. Santacroce, commander of the 841st. Here on the beaches of Florida, Santacroce considers this an opportunity for training. The exercise of the day is waterproofing.

Practicing this exercise once a year, the 841st must secure gear and equipment in wet weather ponchos and traverse them in a small rubber raft in the ocean, returning back to the beach with the dry cargo.

Santacroce said, “To build morale and teamwork among the soldiers, we have them compete between platoons. Racing along the beach, three soldiers carry the raft with cargo to the water, row to a designated buoy and back.”

“These men have to learn how to survive in water,” according to Santacroce. “Engineers have to be able to adapt to any condition because much of their

equipment, themselves included, must survive harsh conditions. For example, waterproofing equipment, like blasting caps and ignitions, is vital for demolition operations. Teamwork plays an important factor to achieve any mission,” Santacroce said.

“It’s a good mix of people that gel well, very well, together,” referring to the 841st working environment. Working alongside each other in the civilian world, many of the soldiers are college students, police officers, firemen and paramedics to name a few.

“Waterproofing is just one small piece of the puzzle,” Santacroce said. “This just leads up to the next event. The exercise simply reminds the soldiers how to maintain equipment in damp conditions. They train for all conditions, natural or otherwise. In order for engineers like the 841st to secure hostile areas, making it safe for other soldiers and equipment, engineers must insure the equipment for those operations survive the trip.

Santacroce stated, “I feel I have an excellent unit. My soldiers are very highly motivated. They are very well prepared, very intelligent. They can take a situation and adapt to it. They can overcome any situation.” 🐾

“They are very well prepared, very intelligent. They can take a situation and adapt to it.”

Capt. Rudolph P. Santacroce



Soldiers swim to get their team back to shore first.

Golden Medic 2002

Story by SSG Derrick Witherspoon
81st RSC, PAO

FORT MCCOY, Wis. – Medical units from across the United States came together at Fort McCoy to participate in one of the largest medical exercises in the country: Golden Medic 2002.

The 427th Medical Logistics Battalion, located in Forest Park, Ga., was one of approximately 16 units that recently traveled to Fort McCoy to participate in Golden Medic 2002. There were also some chemical units and public affairs units involved in the exercise

“Golden Medic 2002 is a major joint, multi-functional, multi-echelon sustainment exercise,” said Lt. Col. Carrie Uttergarrett, commander of the 427th MLB. “The 427th’s mission in Golden Medic 2002 was to provide

Class VIII support to the participating units. We also repaired Bio-medical equipment and participated in the operations of the blood bank.”

Uttergarrett said her soldiers received some valuable training during the exercise. “We had about 49 soldiers participate in the exercise. The soldiers got the opportunity to go through the NBC (Nuclear Biological Chemical) chamber, a confidence course and they learned how to use helicopter hand and arm signals. They also practiced land navigation and received water testing training.” Uttergarrett said.

Specialist Alexia Howard, a member of the 427th MLB, said this exercise was a true learning experience for her. “This exercise really helped me learn more about my job. I deal with



Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Carrie Uttergarrett

A soldier from the 427th Medical Logistics Battalion learns how to use arm and hand signals to bring in a helicopter as a helicopter pilot looks on. 427th soldiers received the training during Golden Medic 2002.



Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Carrie Uttergarrett

Soldiers from the 427th MLB walk across a rope bridge while going through an obstacle course during Golden Medic 2002.

ordering medical supplies, and through this exercise I learned how to do that better than I was doing it before,” Howard said. “I think that when ever you can go into a training exercise and come out knowing more than you did when you went in, then that was a great exercise.”

Sergeant Johnny C. Anthony, also a member of the 427th MLB, said it was a great exercise for the entire unit. “I really enjoyed the training, but the big thing for me was seeing the soldiers pull together and perform their jobs while learning at the same time. It was great team work,” Anthony said. “It was also great to work with the soldiers from the other units. We got to see what they do and

how they perform their jobs. Being part of a medical unit, it’s good to see what the other medical units do in the field and to be able to interact with other medical soldiers.”

Uttergarrett said she’s proud of the job her soldiers did during the exercise. “All the soldiers did an exceptional job. I think the biggest thing was that they got to do a lot of team building and learned how to function better as a unit in a field environment. You really can’t ask for more than that,” Uttergarrett said.

She said she’s not sure if they will participate in Golden Medic 2003, but, “We got enough training out of this exercise to last us for awhile.”

“I really enjoyed the training, but the big thing for me was seeing the soldiers pull together...”

Sergeant Johnny C. Anthony

Staff Ride gives Army Reservists view of past wars

Story by SFC Scotty J. Johnson
81st RSC, PAO

MARIETTA, Ga. – In the aftermath of the Sept. 11th tragedy and the ensuing war against terrorism, our nations’ war strategy needs to be precise. In light of the constant threat of war, members of the 81st Regional Support Command recently conducted a Staff Ride.

A Staff Ride is used to educate officers, noncommissioned officers, and sometimes, civilian employees, on strategy planning and implementation of battle plans of past wars. “Staff Rides are considered training events. There are normally three phases to a Staff Ride: First, there’s the ‘Preliminary Study Phase.’ During this phase, the participants learn about the campaign or battle under study in a classroom environment. Next, there’s the ‘Field Study Phase’ during which, the participants conduct a field trip to the events’ actual site. Finally, there’s the ‘Integration Phase,’ normally conducted at the field site, where the lessons learned are analyzed and discussed by all the events

participants,” explained Dr. Lee Harford, an Army Reserve historian.

There’s never been a time that the lessons learned from past battles have been more important than right now. As the war against terror rages, it becomes increasingly more important to develop different battle strategies. No tool highlights the different strategies like the Staff Ride. “Staff Rides provide potential leaders the opportunity to think through a battle scenario by seeing firsthand from a commander’s point of view how terrain, geography, communication and decisions made in the heat of battle affect military strategies and operations, and the eventual outcome of the fighting,” said Jim Dale, management analyst in the Directorate of Army Reserve Force Programs.

Major Michael T. Tolbert, Individual Readiness staff officer with the 81st RSC, who was a participant, got something else from the staff ride. He climbed the hills, walked the trails and saw firsthand some of the obstacles that his great-great grandfather, Pvt. James J. Taylor of C Company, 1st Arkansas Mounted

“Staff Rides provide potential leaders the opportunity to think through a battle scenario...”

Jim Dale



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Scotty J. Johnson

Dr. Lee Harford (left) and Jim Dale (right) explain the Atlanta Campaign of the Civil War to Staff Ride participants at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park in Marietta, GA.

Rifles Regiment, Clarksville, Ark., had to endure. “It gives me a deep sense of gratitude and respect for what he and other soldiers of the Civil War had to endure.”

As an extra-added dimension to the staff ride both Harford and Dale dress in the traditional Union and Confederate uniforms. This has a tendency to add a touch of realism to the entire scenario. The two instructors explain the makeup of the

uniforms so the participants can get a feel for what the soldiers felt wearing them. “I think Dr. Harford’s idea to dress in the uniforms of the period adds a spark of interest and dimension that makes the staff ride more than just a dried text approach,” Dale said.

The setup of the Staff Ride allows all of the participants to reenact the different battles so they are not just there in a student capacity.

Start your engines

81st RSC holds annual 2002 Drivers' Rodeo, Cook-off competition

Story by Staff Sgt. Ethel Williams
81st RSC, PAO

GULFPORT, Miss. – The 81st Regional Support Command (RSC) held its annual Drivers' Rodeo and Cook-off Competition in June at the Naval Construction Battalion Center, located in Gulfport, where soldiers gathered to demonstrate and share their driving and food preparation skills.

Major Thomas E. Zadick, 81st RSC transportation officer in charge of the competition, said the competition gives the soldiers a good training environment and rewards them with the opportunity to spend time with their families. "Every driver and every cook has won a previous competition from their particular Major Support Command (MSC) so we like to consider

"Nobody loses. They all get great training and this is the best of the field capable units."

Chief Warrant Officer Four Daniel Ormsby

them the best of the best. As a reward we encourage them to bring their families and try to give them a little bit of down time to enjoy the area," he added.

Master Sergeant Roy O. Whaley, Jr., noncommissioned officer in charge (NCOIC) of the rodeo event, described the rodeo as a training tool that allows the drivers to maneuver the vehicles and to do things with them that they may not get a chance to do at a normal drill. He explained that the event gives

the soldiers the opportunity to compete and learn with the cream of the crop while having a good time.

The rodeo consists of four areas of competition with a maximum attainable score of 500 points. The four categories are: personal interview, written examination, preventive maintenance checks and services (PMCS) and the driving course. There are also categories for the driving portion of the competition. The categories are light, medium and heavy truck. There's also a forklift competition.

Winners are awarded for each category. The contestant with the highest overall score is awarded the Grand Champions Award.

Winners of the 2002 drivers' competition are Staff Sgt. Calvin Priest, light truck; Sgt. Billy Hampton, medium truck; Sgt. William Davenport, heavy truck; Spc. Lashun Sims, Palletized Load System (PLS); Sgt. Dave Latchman, M4K Forklift; and Sgt. 1st Class Robert Texidor, M10A Forklift. The grand champion of this year's driving competition is Sgt. Billy Hampton.

The 81st RSC also held its annual Cook-off Competition. Seven units came together to show off their field cooking skills. Chief Warrant Officer Daniel Ormsby, officer in



Photo by Staff Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon

A participant in the 2002 Drivers' Rodeo drives a forklift through an obstacle course while one of the judges looks on.

charge of the cook-off, said, "Nobody loses. They all get great training and this is the best of the field capable units. This is also an opportunity to thank the soldiers for doing a good job and to provide military family time. The cooks and the drivers have the opportunity to eat the food the units have prepared with their families. Each kitchen prepared about 40 meals using the

standard military menu of the day: mashed potatoes, green beans, Swedish meatballs, salad, brownies and tea."

The 75th Combat Support Hospital, Tuscaloosa, Ala., received 1st Place in the Cook-off competition. Sgt. 1st Class James Spencer, NCOIC of the 75th, said it was an honor to win their first competition in this year's Cook-off Competition. ☺

Reservist, civilian race to save lives, stop deadly killer

Story by Spc. Mark Rickert
372nd MPAD

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Thousands gathered in Nashville to participate in the Third Annual Country Music Marathon. The twenty-six-and-a-half-mile run is a true testimony of personal strength, demanding superior fitness and willpower. Running those miles of hot asphalt is challenge enough for most, but pushing a man in a wheelchair while attempting the run takes a different kind of runner.

Army Reserve Capt. Robert W. Catlin, of the 678th Personnel Support Battalion, Nashville, Tenn., is a marathon runner who pushes himself, his limitations, and a man in a wheelchair to the finish line.

Catlin met Marcellus Walker 13 years ago when he was assigned as social manager and on-call medic for the Metro Retired Teachers Apartments of Nashville.

Walker, who is paralyzed from the waist down, was living at the apartments to receive special care. When Walker and Catlin met, an instant friendship was formed.

One day as the two battled wits over a game of chess, Catlin asked Walker if he'd like to run with him. Marcellus only frowned at his buddy's odd request. After all, he was paralyzed. Catlin saw his friend's puzzled glare and quickly explained that he wanted to push Walker as he ran behind him. It sounded like a good idea to Walker. He agreed, and the two went to the

track and ran a few miles. Thirteen years later, the two are running marathons.

Even though the two enjoy the sport, Catlin and Walker run to promote a message: "smoking kills." As a chairperson for Smoke Free

Nashville, Catlin works hard to spread his anti-tobacco message.

"I want to tell people that they have the ability to eliminate the most preventable illness. My grandmother died from indirect smoke inhalation, and I dedicate the runs in her name," said Catlin.

"Wheel Power," as they call themselves, gains a lot of attention. Catlin and Walker take advantage of being in the spotlight



Photo by Spc. Mark Rickert

Army Reserve Capt. Robert W. Catlin (left) of the 678th Personnel Support Battalion, Nashville, Tenn., and Marcellus Walker (right) wait at the start line of the Country Music Marathon.

and voice their message.

"We enter many races and try to let people know what we're doing. Since people notice us, they want to know why we're doing this," said Catlin. "We hope any city we run through, we can bring the message out that smoking kills you."

The team asks their audience not to smoke during their race. By doing this, they hope that it stimulates smokers to think about what they're doing to

their bodies and to others around them.

Catlin and Walker plan to continue their journey long into the future. Soon, they hope to race the Boston Marathon, and from there, the sky's the limit. Wheel Power is more than a team, they are a reminder of what determination, faith, and a lot of work can accomplish. For them, running is a metaphor for life, and they are doing what they can to get everyone involved in the race. ☺

MAKERS

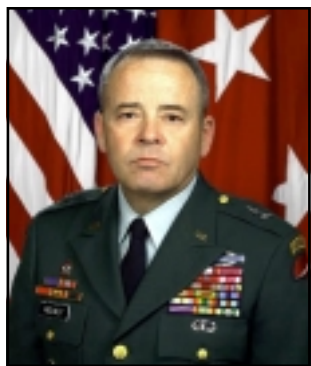
New Chief of Army Reserve

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Senate confirmed Army Reserve Maj. Gen. James R. Helmly for promotion to lieutenant general and appointment as the next Chief, Army Reserve, March 21.

Helmly succeeded Lt. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes, who has been Chief of the Army Reserve since May 25, 1998. Helmly's assumption of duties as Chief, Army Reserve, and assumption of command as Commanding General of U.S. Army Reserve Command, took place in May.

Helmly was assigned as the Commanding General of the 78th Division (Training Support), headquartered in Edison, N.J. He has more than 36 years of active and Army Reserve service, to include two tours in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division and command of an infantry company in Panama.

In his civilian occupation, he is the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations at the Total Army Personnel Command, Alexandria, Va. (USARC PAO)



New DCG of Army Reserve Command

ATLANTA, Ga. - Major General Charles E. Wilson was selected to be the Deputy Commanding General of the U.S. Army Reserve Command. He was the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Reserve 98th Division (Institutional Training) in Rochester, N.Y. Wilson succeeded Maj. Gen. Craig Bambrough as the USARC deputy commander.

Wilson, who was born in Atlanta and raised in Detroit, began his military service when he was drafted in 1966. Following his initial assignment at Ford Ord, Calif., he was deployed to the Republic of Vietnam in 1969.

In civilian life, Wilson worked almost 27 years with the Detroit Police Department, serving in every rank from Patrolman to Assistant Chief of Police within the 5,000-member department. He retired as the Chief of Police for the City of Detroit in December 2001.

(USARC PAO)



Promotion Ceremony

FORT JACKSON, SC — The 81st Regional Support Group conducted a Promotion Ceremony for Col. (P) Larry Knightner in August at the Community Activities Center located on Fort Jackson.

Major General Michael R. Mayo, Commander of the 81st Regional Support Command, presided. Mayo and Maj. Gen. George W.S. Read, Commander of the Army Reserve Readiness Command, assisted wife, Tonja Knightner and daughter Joielle Knightner with the pinning of Col (P) Knightner's first star as Brigadier General, Commander of the 81st Regional Support Group, Fort Jackson, S.C. His son, Jason, presented him with the general's belt.

As commanding general of the 81st Regional Support Group, Brig. Gen Larry Knightner will assume command and control of 51 Reserve units in an eight state area. The mission of the 81st Regional Support Group is to provide assistance and support for subordinate units within the command.

In his civilian capacity, Brig Gen Knightner is the State Director of the Public Housing Program Center of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. He oversees funding for 43 Public Housing Agencies throughout South Carolina. He manages an annual budget exceeding 150 million dollars, which supports well over 38,000 families' housing needs.

(By Sgt. 1st Class Cynthia Thomas, 81st RSG)

Like Mother Like Daughter

LOUISVILLE, Ky. - Most mothers and daughters grow up together and share their make-up, recipes and maybe clothes. This mother-daughter pair shares combat boots and BDUs.

Army Chief Warrant Officer Kristy Milchick and her daughter, Pfc. Katrina Miller, don't exactly share their boots or BDU's, but they do share the same starting point in the Army Reserves: both mom and daughter are members of the Army Reserve with the 678th Personnel Support Battalion in Louisville, Ky. They enlisted on the exact same day, October 27th, but with 20 years between their oaths. Milchick enlisted in the Regular Army on that date in 1980, joining the Army Reserves in 1985.

Mom and daughter drill together about half of the time throughout the year. Both Milchick and Miller admit that they may not always agree as mother and daughter, but in uniform they work together as soldiers on a professional level.

At some point they will inevitably stop serving in uniform, but they will always be able to share the bonds of comrades in arms as well as the love of a mother and daughter.

(By Philip L. Sammon, 3rd Recruiting Brigade)

Supply Excellence Awards

650th Transportation Detachment

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – Members of the Army Reserve's 650th Transportation Detachment from Wilmington, N.C., received the Chief of Staff, Army Supply Excellence Award on Sept. 5 in Washington, D.C.

This accolade is the Department of the Army's highest, worldwide award for supply excellence. The purpose of the award program is to enhance logistical readiness, supply effectiveness, improve property accountability and reduce government waste.

The unit competed in the Company Level Category. This category pertains to Army Reserve supply personnel operating at the company level.

(By Maj. William N. Nutter, 81st RSC, PAO)

844th Engineer Battalion

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – Members of the Army Reserve's 844th Engineer Battalion, from Knoxville, Tenn., will received the Chief of Staff, Army Supply Excellence Runner-up Award on Sept. 5 in Washington, D.C.

This accolade is the Department of the Army's highest, worldwide award for supply excellence. The purpose of the award program is to enhance logistical readiness, supply effectiveness, improve property accountability and reduce government waste.

The unit competed in the Battalion Level Category. This category pertains to Army Reserve

supply personnel operating at the battalion level. (By Maj. William N. Nutter, 81st RSC, PAO)

1015th Maintenance Company

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – Members of the Army Reserve's 1015th Maintenance Company based out of Fort Gillem, Ga., received the Chief of Staff, Army Supply Excellence Runner-up Award on Sept. 5 in Washington, D.C.

This accolade is the Department of the Army's highest, worldwide award for supply excellence. The purpose of the award program is to enhance logistical readiness, supply effectiveness, improve property accountability and reduce government waste.

The unit competed in the Direct Unit Support Level One Category. This category pertains to Army Reserve units that provide logistical support at the lowest unit level.

Chief Warrant Officer Robert Carter, a member of the unit, received the Chief of Staff Army Supply Excellence Individual Award for being recognized as the top accountable officer in the U.S. Army Reserve. (By Maj. William N. Nutter, 81st RSC, PAO)

My Boss is a Patriot

RALEIGH, N.C. - When Staff Sgt. Melanie Robinson took a job at Integrated Project Services (IPS) of Raleigh, N.C., in May, she had no idea that her Army Reserve job was going to consume so much of her summer. Having recently changed jobs in the Army Reserve, she needed some training. "I needed to take off a total of 21 days to attend training classes for my new job in retention. I asked for the time off from IPS and it was amazing how much encouragement I got from my supervisor, Mr. McCullough. He was very supportive. The company I work for is kind of unique in that they sub-contract their employees out to other companies for an hourly fee. I missed about 168 billable hours for my company, that's a lot of money! To say the least, I was very thankful, so I put my boss, Mr. McCullough, in for a "My Boss is a Patriot" certificate of appreciation.

At a small ceremony in the Integrated Project Services conference room, with several IPS employees in attendance, Capt. Poala Sanders, District 1, Officer In Charge for Retention and Transition, 81st RSC, presented Thomas McCullough with his award.

When Sanders and Robinson thanked McCullough one final time, he said, "I see it as the opposite. I should be thanking you, all of the people in the military, for keeping our country safe so we can do business in a free enterprise, and most importantly, for keeping my family and me safe. Thank you for all you do."

(By Staff Sgt. James Lilly, 210th MPAD)

Hall of Fame

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – James K. Looney, 81st Regional Support Command print shop supervisor, was inducted into the Marshall County Sports Hall of Fame in June. Looney received the prestigious honor because of his outstanding basketball career at Guntersville High School, located in Guntersville, Ala.

"It makes you feel good to know other people recognize you as one of the best to come out of your community," Looney said.

Looney ended his basketball career after graduating from the University of Alabama, Huntsville.

Looney said he still shoots basketball every now and then, but he primarily coaches kids, helping them to become better basketball players.

(By SSG Derrick Witherspoon, 81st RSC, PAO)

ROUNDUP

81st RSG

82nd Airborne Division Detachment

FORT BRAGG, N.C. - A mobilization ceremony was held in August for the 82nd Airborne Division Detachment (ADD) from Fort Bragg.

Twenty-four paratroopers of the 82nd ADD were activated for the first time in the unit’s history to mobilize and support 82nd Airborne Division operations.

“We are being activated for the next year and we’re going to support the division to the best of our ability,” said the 82nd detachment commander, Maj. Thomas D. Yando.

The unit will plan, coordinate and direct the execution of military operations involving rear security, terrain management, movement control and area damage control in support of division operations.

“They will be integrating into the division staff and most of them, if not all of them will deploy to Afghanistan,” said Maj. Michael W. Minor, the 82nd Airborne Division deputy of G-3 operations.

Most of the paratroopers in the unit are combat arms and all of them are airborne qualified.

“We just want everyone to know we’re paratroopers too,” Yando said. “We’ve been training for this and we’re ready to do our part for the war on terrorism.”

(By Pvt. Michael J. Carden)

1184th Transportation Terminal Battalion

MOBILE, Ala. – Army Reservists from the 1184th Transportation Terminal Battalion, located in Mobile, are generally focused on their next Department of Defense marine cargo mission, however, recently they’ve taken a break to give back to the communities that have supported them over the years.

Over the past few months, soldiers from the 1184th have participated in three community services projects. The projects include: construction of the new Spanish Fort, the Alabama Kids’ park, the Costal Clean-up and the Special Olympics. Several unit members donated as much as four days of skilled labor to help the Kids’ Park go up in less than one week. Also, while participating in the Costal Clean-up, reservists picked up more than 50 bags of debris on Sand Island off Mobile. In addition, soldiers volunteered to facilitate Special Olympic games in Mobile.

As the 1184th returns to its regular schedule of missions, they continue to stay on the lookout for opportunities to serve their hometown and surrounding area.

(By Maj. Glen A. Cunningham, 1184th USA TTB)

2145th U.S. Army Garrison

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The 2145th U.S. Army Garrison, located in Nashville, posted two names as participating and completing the Nashville Music City Marathon in April. Maj. Michael Baka, the Garrison S-3, and Capt. Nathan Meidl, the full-time unit support training officer, both completed the 26.2-mile race in less than 4.5 hours. Baka and Meidl combined with hundreds of other soldiers from Fort Campbell, Ky., to represent the U.S. Army in this annual event to raise money for Muscular Dystrophy. Their inspiration for running the race was to support both the Army Reserve’s Community Outreach

Program and the fight against Muscular Dystrophy.

(By Chief Warrant Officer Sid Doty, 2145 USAG)

314th PCH

45th Military History Detachment

FORT MCPHERSON, Ga. – Although weekend training for Army Reservists frequently includes training for future missions, being up to speed on their job skills has taken on a whole new importance to the three soldiers of the 45th Military History Detachment (MHD) here at Fort McPherson.

The 45th MHD was unsure of exactly where their final destination would be at the time of the mobilization, but the unit’s mission will be to record military events of a historic nature. This consists of interviewing witnesses and soldiers present at the event; writing monographs, or short stories, about the events; collecting artifacts; taking pictures; and recording data.

The three reservists mobilized were: Maj. Teresa A. Johnson, commander of the 45th MHD; Spec. Betty J. Thomas, the unit’s administrative specialist; and Staff Sgt. Patricia A. Johnston, unit NCOIC and print journalist.

(By Pfc. John P. Evans, 300th MPAD)

300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

ATLANTA, Ga. – Approximately 20 members of the 300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (MPAD), an Army Reserve unit at Fort McPherson, Ga., was mobilized in May as part of the presidential call-up to fight the war on terrorism. The 300th MPAD is one of only three Army Reserve public affairs units who have been called upon to serve in Operation Enduring Freedom/Noble Eagle.

The 300th MPAD’s mission is to provide print and broadcast journalism support in a combined, unified or joint military operation. Additionally, the unit serves in media escort and facilitation missions and supports all public information operations.

Previously, the 300th MPAD was mobilized in support of operations in Bosnia from 1996 to 1997. In addition, unit members have served during operations in Panama, the Middle East, Haiti, Somalia and Bosnia.

(By Maj. William N. Nutter, 81st RSC, PAO)

210th MPAD

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. – The 210th MPAD recently supported the 2002 Joint Service Open House at Andrews Air Force Base, Md. While there, their primary mission was to staff the Joint Information Bureau, providing support to an army of journalists from international media outlets.

The soldiers arrived May 11th and immediately began their tasks. Within hours they surveyed the air base and began setting up shop for the largest U.S. military open house in the world. The Joint Service Open House is held annually and the Army Reserve has a history of successful collaboration with Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force public affairs professionals. This year, the 210th MPAD was given the responsibility of serving as media relations liaisons during the event.

This mission included performing security and credential checks, escorting media representatives, answering media and public queries, and coordinating interview opportunities. Prior to the event on May 17-18, there were phone calls to be made, emails to be sent, press kits to be assembled and spreadsheets full of data to be checked—and then rechecked. With increased security concerns a top priority, attention to detail and vigilance were part of the 210th MPAD’s everyday practices. The mission involved long hours,

but the unit was trained to handle the high profile, executive-level task.

(By Sgt. 1st Class Kim Ryan, 300th MPAD)

171st SPT GP

421st Quartermaster Company

FORT VALLEY, Ga. – A reunion of families, friends and soldiers of the 421st Quartermaster Company became a reality this past May. The 421st soldiers returning home from Germany, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, were honored with a homecoming ceremony at the Army Reserve Center in Fort Valley, Ga.

The 421st served under the 191st Ordnance Battalion, Kaiserslautern, Germany, for approximately seven months. During their deployment, the unit rigged airdrops for approximately 70,000 blankets and 2,310,000 pounds of wheat as part of the humanitarian effort in Afghanistan. The unit also prepared riggs that resulted in the airdrop of 2.5 million daily rations and performed the first airdrop by a C-17 aircraft.

(By Maj. William N. Nutter, 81st RSC, PAO)

415th CM BD

457th Chemical Battalion

FORT JACKSON, S.C. – The Moncrief Army Community Hospital (MACH) Federal Coordinating Center (FCC) conducted a National Disaster Medical situation exercise in June at Fort Jackson and in Spartanburg, S.C. There was an additional Domestic Response Casualty Decontamination (DRCD) training site in Florence, S.C., which operated simultaneously under the direction of the 415th Chemical Brigade, which is based in Greenville, S.C.

The 457th Chemical Battalion, also from Greenville, was the DRCD manger for each training event. The exercise was to be hands on training for weapons of Mass Destruction. This includes nuclear, biological and chemical warfare weapons. The exercise included the collaboration efforts of various local, state and federal agencies.

Other Army Reserve units participating in the exercise were: the 7226th U.S Army Medical Support Unit, Fort Jackson; and the 414th Chemical Company, Orangeburg, S.C.

The exercise went well after getting a late start and enduring extreme weather conditions. In the end, all the soldiers appeared to know that they were a little more prepared than before in dealing with weapons of mass destructions.

(By Spc. Matthew J. Purdom, 210th MPAD)

371st Chemical Company

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – The 371st Chemical Company based out of Greenwood, S.C., received the Maj. Gen. William L. Sibert Award in September for its excellent performance in chemical defense operations. Capt. Christopher Cox, the commander, accepted the award for his unit during a ceremony held at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

This accolade is the U.S. Army Chemical School’s highest, worldwide award program for excellence in chemical defense operations. The award is based on exceptional performance and achievement for the previous year. The purpose of the award program is to provide recognition to units in the Active Army and Reserve Component.

The unit competed in the Reserve Component category for company-size chemical units in the National Guard and Army Reserve. This is the third-consecutive award for the unit.

(By Maj. William N. Nutter, 81st RSC, PAO)

NEWS BRIEFS

College Scholarships

WASHINGTON – FEDscholarships.org announced that every member of the military can now obtain a college education in the information technology or engineering technology fields from a fully accredited college free of charge, thanks to a new program from Grantham College of Engineering, a leading distance education institution of higher learning.

Grantham College, which celebrated its 50th anniversary last year, is offering an unlimited number of scholarships to all of the nation's soldiers, sailors, airmen and members of the other uniformed services.

Edouard R. Quatrevaux, president of Grantham College, stated "Grantham has long planned to do something to show our gratitude for the service of military men and women and received approval in August of this year for the military scholarship program. Grantham College is especially proud to be able to announce the scholarship now, at a time when our uniformed men and women are putting their lives on the line to protect the rest of us."

For more information on Grantham's Military Scholarship Program and to download an application just go to <http://www.grantham.edu/fed.htm> or call (800) 955-2527.

(Federal Children's Scholarship Fund)

NCO Career Development

WASHINGTON – An updated Department of the Army pamphlet will soon provide noncommissioned officers more robust career development guidance on the path to sergeant major.

Replacing a 15-year-old generic DA PAM 600-25, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Guide, the new guide will offer structured institutional and self-development career advice tailored to each military occupational specialty and skill level via the Web.

As an e-book, the guide also has hundreds of hyperlinks for more detailed coverage of specific Army subjects and programs. Users can check-out the Army's Credentialing Opportunities Online Web site to see how a MOS compares to a similar civilian profession and what is required to qualify for jobs in that career field.

Specifically, the guide lays out the duties, prerequisites, required institutional training and recommended self-development of each MOS by career management field and skill level.

(Army News Service)

Long Term Care Insurance

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - The Federal Long Term Care Insurance (LTCI) Program open season began July 1 and will end December 31, 2002. Employees who would like to know more about LTCI or enroll in this program must contact Long Term Care Partners for assistance. You can receive a FREE Open Season Information Kit by contacting the provider via the web at <http://www.ltcfeds.com> or by calling 1-800-LTC-FEDS (1-800-582-3337); hearing impaired (TDD: 1-800-843-3557).

(81st RSC, G-1)

Montgomery GI Bill

WASHINGTON – Soldiers who converted from the Veterans Educational Assistance Program to the Montgomery GI Bill are at risk of forfeiting their contributions and losing their benefits, officials said, if they don't make their payments. Soldiers have 18

months from the time they signed the Montgomery GI Bill, Department of Defense Form 2366, to pay the mandatory contribution of \$2,700, personnel officials said.

Many of the 5,000 soldiers who signed up for the program may have already missed their deadline, according to officials at the U.S. Total Army Personnel Command

"Program participants need to contact their finance office and make sure the contribution will be paid within the 18-month deadline," said John Rizkallah, chief of the Education Incentives and Counseling Branch at PERSCOM.

If soldiers are not able to pay the \$2,700 in time by using monthly allotments, they have the option of combining the allotment with a lump sum or they can make a single lump sum payment, Rizkallah said.

"The law states that if participants don't pay the contribution in full within the deadline, they forfeit anything they contributed to VEAP and will not be eligible for any education benefits through the Veterans Administration," Rizkallah said.

It is imperative that soldiers look at the date they signed their DD Form 2366 and ensure that they have the contribution paid in full within 18 months of that date, Rizkallah added.

"To date, the VA has not made any exceptions to the deadline," he said.

VEAP was first enacted by Congress for post Vietnam-era soldiers. It was designed to attract high quality men and women to the all-volunteer Armed Forces. Congress signed the VEAP conversion law on Oct. 30, 2000, making it the second conversion opportunity since October 1996.

(By Tesia Williams, PERSCOM PAO)

Officer Candidate School

ST. LOUIS - The annual memorandum of instruction and application packet for Officer Candidate School is now available on-line at the Army Reserve Personnel Command's new web site at www.2XCITIZEN.usar.army.mil.

The MOI and packet will no longer be mailed to general officer commands for distribution. Enlisted TPU members interested in applying for acceptance into the Officer Candidate School Program can find this detailed information under the "Library" section of the 2Xcitizen site.

OCS provides TPU enlisted soldiers the opportunity to use their enlisted experience in their new role as commissioned officers in the Army Reserve. The program offers two methods of attendance. The federal program is a 14-week course conducted at Fort Benning, GA. Additional information about this option is available at the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School web site at www.armyocs.com

The second option is the National Guard's three-phase program conducted over a 14-month time period: Phase One Two-week Active Duty for Training period. Phase Two Twelve months of weekend training assemblies at the state academy in lieu of unit drills. Phase Three Two-week Active Duty for Training period.

Additional information about the OCS program is available in the .

(AR-PERSCOM Website)

Troops to Teachers

WASHINGTON – The worst teacher shortage ever is now approaching, according to figures compiled by the National Education Association. Reserve component personnel can help alleviate the problem.

In January 2002, the Troops to Teachers program expanded to include reserve component service

members. Under the program, the U.S. Department of Education and the Defense Department team up to help qualified service members transition from the military to teaching careers.

The Troops to Teachers program is designed to recruit quality teachers for schools serving low-income families and to relieve teacher shortages.

The program began in 1994 and since its inception has provided monetary and guidance support to qualified active duty service members.

Reservists who wish to participate in the program must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution or have one year of college with six years experience in a vocational or technical field.

If you are interested in still serving your country and discovering a new and rewarding career in teaching, access www.ProudToServeAgain.com, the Troops to Teachers web site, for more information. The site will provide you the latest updates on the program, resource links for program applicants and important links to state-specific education sites.

(American Forces Press Service)

Health Care

Demobilized members of the Reserve component and their dependents, who were activated in support of a contingency operation are eligible for the TRICARE transitional health care demonstration project.

Family members of Reserve component members (National Guard and Reserve) ordered to active duty for more than 30 days under 10 U.S.C. or 32 U.S.C. are eligible for TRICARE.

Members of the reserves and National Guard who are called to active duty will be eligible for health care benefits under TRICARE, just as other active-duty service members are. Their families will also become eligible for TRICARE benefits, if the military sponsor's active-duty orders are for a long-enough period of time.

Families of members called to active duty in response to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks are eligible for enhanced benefits under the TRICARE Reserve Family Demonstration Project.

If you're an activated reservist or National Guard member, you can get more information about your family's TRICARE Standard benefits from the TRICARE Standard Handbook. To get one, check with your nearest uniformed services hospital or clinic, or any TRICARE service center. Or, write to the TRICARE Management Activity, 16401 E. Centretch Pkwy., Aurora, CO 80011-9043.

(TRICARE Website)

Dental Care

The TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) is a voluntary dental insurance program for the Selected Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve, and all eligible uniformed services family members. To be eligible, you must have at least 12 months of service commitment remaining and participate in the program for at least 12 months after which enrollment is month to month.

Selected Reserve members are responsible for just 40 percent of the monthly premium; the government pays the rest. Other Reserve component members are responsible for the full premium. When called to active duty for more than 30 days, you are eligible for dental care at military treatment facilities free of charge, and thus are disenrolled from the TRICARE Dental Program.

Additional information on the TRICARE Dental Program is available at the United Concordia Companies, Inc. Web site at www.ucci.com, or call toll free 1-800-866-8499 for general information, or 1-888-622-2256 to enroll. To contact the Managed Care Support Contractor for your region, go the regional map.

(TRICARE Website)